

The following SPEECH being spoke
 off hand upon the Debates in the House of Commons, you
 cannot expect in it the Exactness of Roman Eloquence ;
 but you have the freedom, and bravery of the Old Ro-
 man, and true English Spirit, zealous for the good of their
 Country, and bold in all its Dangers. And if other Cor-
 porations and Shires would take the like Care as B----,
 they might be as happy in the Choice of their Represen-
 tatives ; and then, and never till then, may we hope to see
 poor England become Old England again, Rich and Happy
 at home, Glorious and Respected abroad. Towards which,
 this worthy Patriot has set a Noble Example ; and that
 it may Inspire and Incourage others, and prompt and
 enable the Country to distinguish such from Perfomers,
 and wretched Betrayers of their Country and Politick,
 is the design of making this Publick, from a Copy which
 I procured from a Member of the House of Commons, who
 took it in Short Hand, as it was spoke.

Mr. Speaker,

I have heard of a Ship in a Violent Storm, in danger of Perish-
 ing every Moment ; It was not such a sham Storm as we were
 lately entertained with in the Gazette, which deceives the Peo-
 ple, that many Ships going for France, Laden with Corn, were
 Cast away, tho' those Ships and many more are since safely Arrived
 in France ; But it was such a real Storm as on the 7th. of the last
 Month, Destroyed on the Coast of Cornwall upwards of 40 Sail of
 our English Ships, most of which were Laden with Corn, and several
 sorts of Provisions, for the use of our Dutch Allies, to enable them to
 live Cheap, by making the same Dear at Home, perhaps some were
 for

for the Support of our half Starv'd and Unpaid English Soldiers now in Flanders; when Perished likewise more than 700 Sailors, who have left Thousands of Widows, Children, and poor Relations to Curse our Conduct at Sea, the caule of this Calamity: In such a Dreadful Storm it was that the foresaid Ship was in] when the good Commander seeing the Danger, and apprehending Death, desired his Crew to Assist with Resolution, and Preserve themselves and the Ship, which the Sailors refusing to do, he retired to his Cabin, humbled himself in Prayer, and Implored the Powers that alone can live in time of need, That tho' the Ship and the Company might be justly Swallowed up, for the Disobedience of the Sailors, yet that he and his Cabin might suffer no Damage.

Sir, I cannot, as that good Commander did, be so vain as to hope that either my self, or the place for which I serve, can be preserved from the General Foundation, which this Bill we are now debating lets in on the Liberties of my Native Country and Country Men; and therefore be unconcerned for the good of England, provided Bristol were safe. To hope for and expect Happiness in Life, when all Mankind but my self are Dead, would not be more deceiving, than to propose Comfort, and Security to my self and Corporation, when Strangers are Admitted to possets and Enjoy by a Law, all that's Valuable in this Kingdom; for this Bill doth Enfranchise all Strangers that will Swear and Protest against Popery) with the Liberties of every English Man, after the vast Expence of Treasure and English Blood it hath Cost this Kingdom in all Times and Ages of our Fore-fathers, to secure them to themselves and their Posterity.

Wherefore Mr. Speaker I must begg Pardon, if at this time I cannot sit silent, but express a Zealous concern, as well for the Kingdom in General, as for the Place I Represent in particular; and I am more moved therunto, whilst I see so many Members sent here by their Country for the Conservation of the English Adams Liberties, so warm as to part with all to Strangers with one Vote.

The Argument of the Honourable Person near me, to render all the Care of our Fore-fathers of no Esteem amongst us, who are, or ought to be the Representatives of the Kingdom, was to prove, that this Age and Generation are Wise (he did not say Honest) than the former.

I remember a West Country Man many Years past, undertook to prove the same to me, and my Company beyond Sea, by declaring his Father

Father was a Fool to him. I yeilded him that Point by Concluding both to be such; and yet our Fore-fathers might be Wise Men; I shall not at this time question the Wisdom of those who promote the Bill, or their Fathers. For my self I declare in behalf of the Wisdom and Honesty of our Predecessors, nor can I Assent to the yeilding up of the Liberties and Laws they derived unto us, only because some Gentlemen think better of themselves (and perhaps mistakenly) than of their Parents.

Sir, I was early Instructed in a Principle of reverence to the Wisdom of our Ancestors, and at this time I tremble when I Reflect on the Correction given me by my Master, that I might not forget but I imitate and Defend in all times this Rule: *Let them only be accounted Good, Just, and Wise Men, who Regard and Defend the Statutes, Laws, Ordinances, and Liberties, which their Fore-Fathers Wisdom and Experience obtained for themselves and Posterity.* Now it is my Opinion Mr. Speaker, that if those Gentlemen who approve of this Bill, had not only been taught that Rule, but as well Corrected as my self, they would be of my Judgment, and I wish that they who depart from that Rule, and Sacrifice our English Liberties, to a Number of Mercenary Foreigners, may not meet with a much more Rigorous and Exemplary Chastisement from their enraged and Ruined Country Men.

The Arguments used for the Bill are in substance these: First, A want of Purchasers for our Lands. Second, Of Merchants. Third, Manufacturers, who can Work Cheaper than the English. Fourth, Husbandmen to Till the Ground.

To all these I shall return short Answers, but if I deliberate not on them with that Advantage and Reason, as our Land Admirals can (no doubt) with great Ingenuity on Sea Politicks, I hope the House will Pardon me, for my Observations never cost the Kingdom such Expence of Money at Home, and Losses at Sea, as hath the Experience of those Honourable Persons in Sea Affairs.

First its Argued by some, that we want Purchasers for the Lands; This is a Melancholy Consideration, I therefore desire those Gentlemen who approve of this Bill, to tell me what it is hath brought us to this Condition, That the Landed Men of England are Reduced to so Low an Ebb, that they must Sell, and none left able to Buy, unless Foreigners are Naturalized, doth this prove our Fore-fathers want-ed understanding, or doth it not rather conclude its occasioned by our want of theirs, and not following their Examples, who never

Taxed their Country to the Ruin both of themselves and their Posterity, nor did they Expend the Money of the Kingdom on such Allies as Ours: who as we have been informed by some of the *Privy Council*, are not in our interest, and will spare us none of their Men for our Pay, without great Peasants likewise for themselves. Can any Man hope to periwade me, that our Fore-fathers would have brought Foreign Soldiers into *England* and pay them, and Naturalize them likewise, and at the same time send the *English* Soldiers abroad to Fight in a strange Land, without their pay.

Let us but abate our Taxes, and after the Wise President of our Fathers, pay our own Sea Men and Soldiers at Home, and send the Foreigners Back. Then the Money will be found Circulating at Home, in such *English* Mens Hands, who may Buy the Lands that are to be Sold, without Naturalizing Strangers.

Secondly, Its said we want more Merchants. Whom may we thank for bringing so many to Poverty, but I shall forbear grating, and desire the Liberty to Consider in short how the Trade of *England* hath hitherto been carried on. Gentlemen have placed their younger Children to Merchants, their Masters observing their Honesty and diligence when they have gained some experience in the necessary parts of Trade, Generally send them abroad, to *Turkey*, all parts of the *Serain*, to *Spain*, *Portugal*, East and West Indies; and all parts where *England* holds any Considerable Commerce: there the young men are Employed by and Entrusted with the Stocks and Estates of their Masters and Friends, whereby all parties both the principals at home, and the Factors abroad are advantaged, and *England* enriched (for there in the end all Centers) and at last when they are satiated with gain, they return to their Native soil their Friends and Relations for ease and Enjoyment, making room for a younger Generation to succeed in their profitable Employments. Thus hitherto this Kingdom hath advanced in Riches, whilst Foreigners could not with success plant their Factories on us, through the advantage we had by our Laws: Let us but turn the Tables and Consider the Consequence: Suppose we pass this bill, and the Dutch (who no doubt will take the Oaths as this Bill directs, and protest against Popery and *Paganism*, and on occasion Christianity too, as at *Japan*) send their Servants and Factors hither, and we Naturalize them, and let the Capital Stock which gets an Impoy to these new made *Englishmen* belong to their Masters and friends, who never did or ever will live amongst us, will it not then follow that the profit will be theirs

thoies, and not *England*, and will not the New made *English* yet *Dutchmen* still return to their Country and friends with their gain, as our People hitherto have done. We may observe by our Island Trade, that its seldom they who make the Manufactories gain Estates, but those who employ their stocks in buying and selling what others make; and its the same with the Merchants, those that Export and Import are the gainers; the first make very seldom, the Consumption never.

The Conclusion then of this Experiment must be this. That what hath hitherto been gain to *England* by *English* Merchants and Factors, will be turned to a Foreign Land, by the Foreign Merchants Naturalized, for their own good, not *England*.

But this is not all, forasmuch the Art of Navigation will be rendered useless. Whence then will be a Nursery for Sea Men? For Foreign Merchants will Naturalize Foreign Sea men; and when the Press Masters find them, they will *Dutchmen* speake, ya. *non haer*, and avoid the Service, but at the *Crown-House*, Exchequer, and in all Corporations, they will be found as good *Englishmen* as any be of this House; from whence it followeth, that Trade will be only carried on by Foreign Merchants and Sea men, and the *English* Sea men Condemned to our Men of War, and perhaps live there, as hitherto without their Pay, till another Million be owing them for Wages, and in the interim have this only consolation and reward for service done, and to be done, that their Wives and Children may be subsisted with the alms of the parish, whilst Foreign soldiers are maintained at home and abroad with their pay.

A third Argument for admitting *Foreigners*, is upon a supposed want we have of *Manufacturers*, especially such as will work cheaper than the *English*; In my Opinion this reasoning is extraordinary, and ought not to take air out of the House, least the Old *English* spirit should exert it self in defence of its Liberties, for at this time when all provisions are become excessive dear by the great quantities exported to *Holland*, which puts the poor *English* Manufacturers on Starving in most parts of *England*, for want of a full Employ to Enable them to support their Families, by their honest and painful Labour and Industrey, shall an *English* Parliament let in strangers to under sell our Country, which they may easily do, whilst they live in *Garrers*, pay no Taxes, and are bound to no Duty; How shall we answer this to our Country, who sent us here? when by so doing, instead of making the Kingdom more populous,

we provide only for the subsistence of Foreigners, and put our Country men to the Choice of starving at home, or to turn soldiers, and be sent to Flanders, and starve there for want of their pay ; for its well known that at this time, more commodities are made in England than can be consumed abroad, or at home, which makes the poor Manufacturers so miserable. All Country Gentlemen within this House, have for several Sessions laboured what they could to raise the price of the Provisions which their Lands produce, and some think it not great enough yet, and they would despise that man, who should endeavour to lower the Rates, by proposing a free Importation of Irish Cattle and Corn, tho he had no other design, than that Charitable and necessary one of relieving the poor ; and yet these very Gentlemen are for this Bill, because they would have the labour of the poor brought to a lower advantage : In my Opinion this is a very unequal way of reasoning, that whilst we raise the price of the product of the Land, for the Gentlemen to live in greater state, at the same time our Consols are how to make the half starved Manufacturers that live by their daily labour, more and more miserable. What Opinion will the Common people of England have of this House, and the Gentlemen of the Kingdom, whom nothing can please, but what is made by Foreigners, or comes from abroad ?

Our Dishes for a long time have been so nice, that nothing but a French Cook could please, nor could we persuade our selves that our cloathing was good unless from Head to Foot we were Aianode de France ; The Gentleman was not well served without a Frenchman, and the Lady's Commode could not sit right, if her fine French Woman did not put it on : Now on a sudden, the Change is as violent in favour of the Dutch, who are great Courtiers, and the only taking people; and our English are a sort of Clumsy fisted people if compared with the Modish Dutch Men and Women, and in short the Englishmen are fit for nothing, but to be sent to Flanders, and there either to fight, steal, or starve for want of pay. There is one thing M. Speake which comes into my mind, with which I shall close this Consideration. What reason was there for blaming the Mayors, Aldermen, Common Councils, and other Governours of Corporations, for surrendering the Charters, tha they still retain the Rights for Englishmen only to come into new Charters, and at the same time hope to justify our proceedings, tho we throw up the Great Charter of our English Liberties to admit Strangers.

A Fourth Pretext for this Bill is, a want of Husbandmen to Till the Ground; I shall lay little on this Head, but request the Honourable Person below me, to tell me of the *Ferry Thousand French*, which he conserleth are come into *England*. How many does he know, that at this time follow the *Plow* t'urkis my firm Opinion, that not only the *French*, but any other Nation that will let it lie upon us, will never transplant themselves for the benefit of going to *Plow*; they will contentedly leave the *English* the sole monopoly of that slavery.

Upon the whole S^r. its my judgement, that should this Bill passe, it will bring as great afflictions on this Nation, as ever fell upon the *Egyptians*, and one of their plagues we have at this time very severe upon us; I mean that of their Land bringing forth *Frogs* in abundance, even in the Chambers of their Kings: for there is no entring the Courts of St. James and *Whitehall*, the Pallaces of our Hereditary Kings, for the great Noise and Croaking of the *Frogs*.

Mr. Speaker, This Nation is a *Religious*, *Inh*, and *Zedonic* Nation, who, in some of their fits and Zeal, have not only Quarrelled and fought for the same, but have murdered and Deposed *Kings*, *Nobles*, *Bishops*, and *Priests*, for the sake of their Religion and Liberties, which they pretended to prove from the Bible, we are the Religious Representatives of this Religious People, Let us therefore learn Instruction in this Case before us, from that good Book; where we may be informed, that Saint Paul, by being born Free of Hether *Rome*, escaped a Whipping, and valued, and pleaded that Priviledge; and the Chief Captain of the *Romans* prides himself, that he, with a great sum, had obtained that Freedam, and feared greatly when he had violated St. Paul's Liberty, only by binding of him, and, Shall we set at nought the Freedoms of the English Nation, who are a Religious Christian Kingdom, and part with the same to strangers, for nothing, unless the undoing of our own Country men, who sent us here; *but not on this Errand*, Certainly we should follow the Example of the Roman Captain, and fear and tremble when we consider the Just Provocation we shall give to the Kingdom, who will expect that We Preserve, and not Destroy every English Man's Birth-right.

Sir, We may farther learn, from that Book, the Fate of the *Egyptians*, who experimented on the score of Charity, what it is a people may expect from admitting strangers into their Country and

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Councils; Joseph was a stranger sold a Slave into Egypt, yet being taken into Pharaoh's Council, he, by Taxes, and other fine projects, brought the seven years plenty. God had blessed the Egyptians with, into the Granaries of Pharaoh, but when Death came on the Land, and the people cried to their King for Relief, they were lost to the stranger Joseph, who gotteth from them, for that which was once their own, all their Money, their Cattle, their Lands; and last of all, their Persons into slavery; tho' at the same time, builded for otherwise by his own Country men, for he placed them in the best of the Land; the Land of Goshen, and nourished them from the King's store. This Example should teach us to be wise in time, seeing all this was done by the Advice of one Foreigner in the Privy Council; and what may that Country expect, where the Head, and many of the Council are Foreigners?

Sir, I perceive some Gentlemen are uneasy, perhaps I have offended them, in supposing they are Religious Representatives; or concluding that their Religion is to be proved from the Bible: but then we know which Assembly it is that doth now sit in Parliament, to oversee us in our Liberties, and we are bound to support this Motion, That the Clergy be commanded to open the Doors, and let us all Kick the Bill out of the House, and these Foreigners out of the Kingdom.

T H I N I S.
